

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS AND LISTINGS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION.

1-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A fluorine electrolytic cell comprising:

an anode connection member having an end portion;

a skirt wall structure having a top plate, said top plate having an aperture, said anode connection member passing through said aperture;

a skirt wall top plate closure member being in sealing engagement with said skirt wall top plate, said skirt wall top plate closure member being in electrical communication with said anode connection member to constitute an anode connection to said fluorine electrolytic cell; and

a non-conductive spacer member being sealingly disposed between said skirt wall top plate closure member and an outer surface of said skirt wall top plate, wherein said end portion of said anode connection member ~~is disposed within~~ is retained by said skirt wall top plate closure member, said end portion of said anode connection member being spaced apart from said skirt wall top plate and said aperture by said spacer member and said skirt wall top plate closure member.

17. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, wherein said spacer member is made from a ceramic including one of alumina, calcium fluoride, and magnesium fluoride.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, wherein said spacer member is of a generally annular form around said anode connection member.

20. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, wherein said spacer member is disposed between gaskets that seal between an upper face of said skirt wall top plate and a lower face of said spacer and an upper face of said spacer and a lower face of said skirt wall top plate closure member.
21. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 20, wherein at least one of said gaskets is a spiral wound gasket.
22. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 20, wherein at least one of said gaskets is a metal bead gasket.
23. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 22, wherein said metal bead gasket includes a metal plate having a bead embossed therein.
24. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 21, wherein said spiral wound gasket includes at least one inner keeper ring.
25. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 21, wherein said spiral wound gasket includes at least one outer keeper ring.
26. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, wherein said end portion of said anode connection member is welded to said skirt wall top plate closure member.
27. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, wherein said end portion of said anode connection member is connected to said skirt wall top plate closure member by at least one mechanical fastener.
28. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 16, further comprising an auxiliary closure member.

29. (Currently Amended) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 28, wherein said auxiliary closure member is in sealing engagement with said skirt top plate wall closure member.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of installing an anode in a fluorine generating electrolytic cell comprising the steps of:

providing a skirt member structure for said fluorine generating electrolytic cell, said skirt member being of open-ended construction having a lower extremity that is immersed in an electrolyte forming a closed volume;

forming an aperture in a top plate of said skirt member structure to permit an anode connection member to pass through; and

suspending said anode connection member from a skirt wall top plate closure member and sealing said aperture with said skirt wall top plate closure member by providing at least one non-electrically conductive spacer member therebetween, wherein an end portion of said anode connection member is disposed within is retained by said skirt wall top plate closure member, wherein said end portion of said anode connection member is spaced apart from said skirt wall top plate and said aperture by said at least one spacer member and said skirt wall top plate closure member.

31. (Currently Amended) A fluorine electrolytic cell comprising:

an anode connection member;

a skirt wall structure having a top plate member, said top plate member having an aperture therethrough, said anode connection member in communication with said aperture;

a skirt wall top plate closure member being in sealing engagement with said skirt wall top plate, said skirt wall top plate closure member being in electrical communication with said anode connection member, wherein an end portion of said anode connection member is disposed within is retained by said skirt wall top plate closure member, said end portion of said anode connection member being spaced apart from said skirt wall top plate and said aperture by said spacer member and said skirt wall top plate closure member;

a non-conductive spacer member having an upper surface and a lower surface, said

spacer member being disposed between and in sealing engagement with said skirt wall top plate closure member and said skirt wall top plate, said skirt wall top plate closure member being electrically insulated from said skirt wall top plate;

at least one upper gasket disposed on said upper surface of said spacer member; and
at least one lower gasket disposed on said lower surface of said spacer member.

32. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 31, wherein at least one of said gaskets is a spiral wound gasket.

33. (Currently Amended) The fluorine electrolytic cell of ~~claim 20~~ claim 31, wherein at least one of said gaskets is a metal bead gasket.

34. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 33, wherein said metal bead gasket includes a metal plate having a bead embossed therein.

35. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 32, wherein said spiral wound gasket includes at least one inner keeper ring.

36. (Previously Presented) The fluorine electrolytic cell of claim 32, wherein said spiral wound gasket includes at least one outer keeper ring.